

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held a work session on Thursday, October 17, 2013 in the Cabinet Room of the Townsend Building, Dover, Delaware.

Present were: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; G. Patrick Heffernan, Barbara B. Rutt, and Donna R. Johnson, who serves as the State Board's Executive Director. Also in attendance were Iona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board of Education. Mary Kate McLaughlin and Ryan Fennerty from the Department of Education were present as was Melissa Spencer.

The work session was officially called to order by President Gray at 10:18 a.m. after a quorum was present.

Discussion on Charter Contracts

State Board Executive Director Donna Johnson provided a synopsis from the September work session and the questions the Board raised at that work session regarding charter contracts and the difference between a charter contract and the performance agreement. Ms. Kirshon explained that the performance agreement is part of the contract. The contract is also more technical on the responsibilities and the contract is enforceable. It was noted that the contract is between the charter school and the authorizer. Mr. Fennerty provided some background information on the Department's work with Paul O'Neill on the contract outlining roles as well as clarifying the document. There was discussion on the Board's understanding of the contract as it outlines what is expected from charter schools. The Board expressed its concerns that the Department enforce what is outlined in the contract noting it would require a change in behaviour and clarified expectations. Ms. McLaughlin explained changes from the Department with the new director for the Charter Office coming on board soon and the change to the Charter School Advisory Committee process. There was discussion about the charter contract for the schools up for renewal. Ms. Johnson pointed out that the charter contract would not be in effect until July 1st of next year when the new charter begins.

Discussion on Regulation 275

Ms. Johnson provided the Board with the changes in Regulation 275 language, as requested by the Board, that pertained to the charter contract. She also pointed out the language that requires the State Board's assent to the Department's recommendation on performance agreements like it does currently for all other major modifications in order for their approval and action to occur. The Board discussed the performance reviews and suggested inserting the total points key at the top of the Academic Review Report and including the total overall point value with the final rating that would indicate through the overall point system in addition to the rating label how a school is performing. The example given was a school could be rated as "Does Not Meets" and only be a few points away from "Meets". Another discussion was on defining "satisfactory growth" toward meeting goals.

Adjournment

The work session adjourned at 11:15 a.m.